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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/07

SPONSOR Snyder LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Increase of Metro & Magistrate Judge Salaries SB 301

ANALYST C.Sanchez

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$423.1	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Bernalillo Metropolitan Court (BMC)

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 301 amends Section 34-1-9 NMSA 1978 to increase the salaries of metropolitan court judges to 95% of the salary of a district judge, instead of 90%. This would also increase salaries of magistrate court judges since magistrate court judges are paid at 75% of the salary of a metropolitan court judge.

The current judiciary salary structure for judges provides that a Court of Appeals Judge receives 95% of the salary of an Associate Supreme Court Justice; a District Court Judge receives 95% of the salary of a Court of Appeals Judge; a Metropolitan Court Judge receives 90% of the salary of a District Court Judge; and a Magistrate Judge receives 75% of a Metropolitan Court Judge.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The fiscal impact for the Bernalillo Metropolitan Court would total \$119,405 of recurring general fund. The fiscal impact for the Magistrate Courts would total \$303,720 of recurring general fund.

This amount will increase every year by whatever amount the Legislature raises judicial salaries.

	No.	<b>Current Salary</b>	<b>Effect on Current Salary</b>	
		Curr. Rate	NewRate	Total
Chief Metro Judge	1	\$ 95,066	\$ 100,347	\$ 6,388
Assoc. Metro Judges	18	\$ 93,441	\$ 98,632	\$ 113,017
Total Metro Cost				\$ 119,405
<b>Magistrate Judges</b>				
	No.	Curr. Rate	NewRate	Total
Presiding Magistrate	2	\$ 71,299	\$ 75,260	\$ 9,503
Assoc. Magistrate	63	\$ 70,081	\$ 73,974	\$ 294,217
Total Magistrate Cost				\$ 303,720
Total				<b>\$ 423,125</b>

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

This measure is part of the Unified Judicial Budget. Increased salaries may reduce turnover and vacancy rates, with attendant training costs, in the metropolitan and magistrate courts. Higher salaries may encourage highly qualified individuals to seek both metropolitan and magistrate positions.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo will be maintained.

CS/sb